

## The Centerpiece of Mark's Gospel

Mark bookends this treatise with two stories of blind men being healed. Within that context, we discover the disciples blindness to Jesus' teaching.

In the midst of this treatise Mark includes the warning of excluding those who are doing the work of the kingdom, and causing another to sin, especially the weakest; in the case of 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism – children and women. Jesus, through Mark's story of "the Rich Man," enhances the notion that it is nearly impossible to enter (live in) God's Kingdom and only possible with God's help.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century those who believed in Jesus were not called "Christians." They were called "Followers of the Way." Mark weaves this word, "way," into the center piece of his Gospel: Chapter 8:22 through 10:52.

**BOOKEND: Jesus Heals Blind Man** Mark 8:22-26 (*of note: This precedes Peter's insight into Jesus' Messiahship, but is still blurry, like the blind man*)

**Mark sets the location**-Mark 8:27 *Caesarea Philippi on the "Way"*

**Jesus predicts his destiny**-Mark 8:31 *Jesus reveals his mission*

**Disciples misunderstand**-Mark 8:32-33 *Peter is rebuked*

**Jesus reiterates the Way**-Mark 8:34-9:1 *Take up your cross, lose your life*

**Mark sets the location**-Mark 9:30 *Passing through Galilee*

**Jesus predicts his destiny**-Mark 9:31 *The Son of Man will be betrayed*

**Disciples misunderstand**-Mark 9:32-34 *The disciples "who is the greatest?"*

**Jesus reiterates the Way**-Mark 9:35-37 *Whoever wants to be first must be last*

**Mark sets the location**-Mark 10:32 *Going on the Way to Jerusalem*

**Jesus predicts his destiny**-Mark 10:33-34 *The Son of Man to be tortured / killed*

**Disciples misunderstand**-Mark 10:35-41 *Vying for position in the Kingdom*

**Jesus reiterates the Way**-Mark 10:42-45 *The first/leader must be slave of all*

**BOOKEND: Jesus Heals Blind Man** Mark 10:46-52 (*of note: This healing had immediate result in clarity versus the previous healing, which was blurry at first. Mark says Bartimaeus was on the "way-side" when he realized Jesus was near and ends his centerpiece with this blind man seeing clearly immediately and following Jesus on the "way."*)